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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/23/2018  
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SUBJECT: POLAND MIGHT RE-EVALUATE TROOP LEVELS IN  
AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 131480

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Craig M. Conway  
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S) Warsaw fully recognizes the importance of next year's presidential election in Afghanistan and will do its best to maintain the security and integrity of the electoral process, especially in Ghazni Province, where approximately 1600 Polish troops are stationed. Roman Strzemiecki and Dominik Malek of the MFA's Asia-Pacific Department (responsible for Afghanistan) told us December 23 that the GoP had not yet explored in depth the security requirements for next year's election. They welcomed reftel information on NATO planning estimates, which they said the GoP will consider as part of its deliberations.

¶2. (SBU) In the meantime, Defense Minister Bogdan Klich told the media in Krakow yesterday that Poland had no plans to increase the number of troops in Afghanistan. He revealed, however, that the Ministry might consider changes in the number of troops after an inspection of the Polish contingent in January. Our MFA interlocutors were not aware of Klich's remarks in Krakow but agreed that a re-evaluation of troop levels might occur early next year, especially in the run-up to the presidential election.

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